

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 MCE-00
TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
ARA-10 AF-10 /080 W
-----021991 101452Z /40

R 100300Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 862
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3563

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SN, GT, UY
SUBJ: SALE BY SINGAPORE OF U.S.-ORIGIN ARMORED CARS

REF: (A) SINGAPORE 5388, (B) STATE 9259

1. AS INDICATED REF A, SINGAPORE HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN INTERESTED IN SELLING ABOUT FORTY OF ITS CADILLAC GAGE V-200 ARMORED CARS WHICH ARE SURPLUS TO ITS NEEDS. SINCE THESE VEHICLES ARE OF AMERICAN ORIGIN, USG PERMISSION TO TRANSFER THEM TO THIRD COUNTRY IS REQUIRED.
2. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT, AS INDICATED REF B, SINGAPOREAN REQUEST FOR USG APPROVAL OF THEIR SALE TO SOMALIA WAS TURNED DOWN SOME MONTHS AGO ON GROUNDS THAT U.S. POLICY WAS NOT TO SUPPLY ARMS TO SOMALIA AT THAT TIME.
3. SINCE THE SOMALI TURNDOWN, SINGAPOREANS HAVE BEEN SEEKING OTHER CUSTOMERS FOR THESE VEHICLES. TWO LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, GUATEMALA AND URUGUAY, HAVE INDICATED A DEFINITE INTEREST IN PURCHASING THEM. BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH EITHER COUNTRY, SINGAPOREANS HAVE ASKED US WHETHER USG

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HAS ANY LEGISLATIVE OR POLICY OBJECTIONS TO SALE OF THESE VEHICLES TO THE COUNTRIES INDICATED. THEY UNDERSTAND THAT FORMAL USG APPROVAL OF THE SALE CAN BE GIVEN ONLY WHEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PURCHASER ARE COMPLETE AND ALL DETAILS KNOWN. WHAT THEY ARE SEEKING IS AN INDICATION OF THE GENERAL U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD SALES TO THESE COUNTRIES SO THAT THEY CAN

DECIDE WHETHER IT IS WORTHWHILE TO PROCEED WITH NEGOTIATIONS. GUATEMALA IS THE COUNTRY OF PREFERENCE FROM THE SINGAPORE STANDPOINT.

4. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT SINGAPOREANS HAVE HAD PROBLEMS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS OVER USG MUNITIONS CONTROL LICENSING. IN ADDITION TO OUR REFUSAL TO PERMIT THE SOMALI SALE, SHIPMENT OF SINGAPORE-MADE MORTARS TO CHILE WAS RECENTLY IMPOUNDED BY U.S. CUSTOMS BECAUSE OF U.S. BAN ON TRANSFER OF ARMS TO CHILE. SINCE SINGAPORE HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY FORTHCOMING AND HELPFUL IN MAKING FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO U.S. MILITARY VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT, WE WOULD LIKE TO BE HELPFUL TO THEM IN THIS MATTER IF OUR POLICIES PERMIT.

5. APPRECIATE EARLY RESPONSE.
KNEIP

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 10 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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